



Building South Carolina's Birth through Five Plan

South Carolina's Birth through Five Plan will build a coherent framework for our collective efforts to strengthen the early childhood system. It will bring together various strategic planning efforts conducted over the past five years into a bold, comprehensive, actionable strategy for our state that includes joint interagency commitments. The plan will cover Birth through Five with a discrete section focused on Birth through Three.

Partners and key stakeholders will play essential roles in the development of the plan:

Background

We will have **engaged leadership** from:

- Governor's Office
- Agency Directors, Deputies, and Division Leaders
- Legislative Leaders

Expert advice will be available from:

- BUILD
- ZERO TO THREE

Over 4,400 South Carolinians informed the development of the 2019 SC Early Childhood Needs Assessment, and additional voices will be solicited through the 2021 – 2023 SC Early Childhood Needs Assessment Plan. These voices will be brought forward into this process by Dr. Leigh D'Amico, University of South Carolina.

Expert facilitation will be provided by:

- Community Building Institute (Bill Potapchuk)
- MBST Solutions (Mary Beth Salomone Testa)

In developing this plan, we will respect each agency's autonomy and governance structure and seek guidance from agency directors on how the plan can best support and serve our youngest children and their families, their agency, and the state.

We will be building upon existing plans that have been recently completed or are still in process including the Preschool Development Grant Plan, Pritzker Children's Initiative South



Carolina B-3 Plan, Agency Accountability Reports, State Agency Strategic Plans, and Federally-Required Plans

The final plan will include:

- Context and baseline data
- Comprehensive goals
- Measures of success
- Action items
- Joint, Interagency Commitments

Plan Development Process

The major steps of the process will include:

- **Key Informant Interviews.** 15 - 20 key stakeholders will be interviewed to learn their perspectives and ideas for the plan (February and March)
- **System Goal Teams.** Four system goal teams will be at the heart of the process, each meeting 2-3 times to review language from existing state plans, consider ideas from plans from other states, and develop consensus on direction and language for this plan. These teams will meet in March and April. Teams will include ECAC members and staff. The five teams are:
 1. **School Readiness.** South Carolina's children arrive at school ready to reach their highest potential.
 2. **Health & Safety.** South Carolina's youngest children are healthy and safe.
 3. **Family & Community.** South Carolina's youngest children are actively supported by their families and communities.
 4. **Family-Centered, Coordinated & Aligned System.** South Carolina's early childhood system is family-centered, coordinated, and aligned.

As a part of this work, there will be regular “coordination meetings” to ensure continuity between the efforts underway on the Early Childhood Needs Assessment, Preschool Development Grant Plan, and South Carolina’s Birth through Five Plan.

Plan Review and Approval Process

Development of draft sections of the plan. This work will be completed by System Goal Teams with the support of the facilitation team.

Development of draft plan. This work will be completed by staff, expert advisors, members of the System Goal Teams, and the facilitation team.



Review of initial internal working draft plan. The draft plan will be reviewed by agency leadership, members of the ECAC, Interagency Collaboration Committee, and members of system goal teams. The initial plan will be revised based on this guidance and become a public review draft.

Presentation of Review Draft and Public Comment. The review draft of the plan will be available for Public Comments which includes all stakeholders and residents. There will also be specific opportunities for key partners such as the PDG team, the Pritzker team, BUILD, ZERO TO THREE, and other early childhood organizations to review the initial working draft plan and offer comment. Comments will be reviewed and incorporated into the Review Draft as appropriate. This work will be completed by staff, expert advisors, and the facilitation team.

Present Final Plan for Approval. The final approval of the plan will be by the ECAC.